

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/689, 989 10/13/00 THOMPSON

P 2316.926USD1

EXAMINER

MM91/0822

ATTN: STEVEN C. BRUESS  
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-0903

HENRY, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED:

08/22/01  
*[Signature]*

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

MM91/0822

ATTN: STEVEN C. BRUESS  
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-0903

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/689,989	10/13/00	009	HENRY, J	2872 08/22/01
First Named Applicant	THOMPSON, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION OUTSIDE PLANT FIBER DISTRIBUTION APPARATUS AND METHOD

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEES DUE	DATE DUE
3 2316.926USD1	385-135.000	K90	UTILITY	NO	\$1240.00	11/23/01

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT.  
PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/689,989	THOMPSON ET AL.
	Examiner Jon W. Henry	Art Unit 2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to papers no. 1-5 filed October 13, 2000-December 20, 2000.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-27.
3.  The drawings filed on        are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.       .
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received:       .

5.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No.       .
  - (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed       , which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No.       .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>      </u>     |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>7</u> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art does not teach or suggest a connection module including a housing, a plurality of connection locations, and a cable clamp with all of the features and arranged, connected, and coordinated for operation as set out in independent claim 19. The patent to Petrunia (U.S. 5,212,761) is considered the closest prior art. However, it appears the module structure at "pin" 23 of Petrunia (see column 2, lines 61-65) is not intended to clamp the incoming cable 21 but *only* keep the cable within the channel because a clamp 22 is provided in a different portion of the module to clamp the cable. Although a clamping function *might* also be provided at pin 23, nothing in Petrunia suggests that. Additionally, although Petrunia discloses a "cable notch region" as set out in claim 19, the structure that *might* be modified to provide a clamp, as set forth above, does not extend from the *rear* of the housing as set out in claim 19, but rather extends from the *bottom* of the housing of Petrunia. Those differences clarify that finding the subject matter of claim obvious over the prior art within the meaning of 35 USC 103 would require impermissible hindsight.

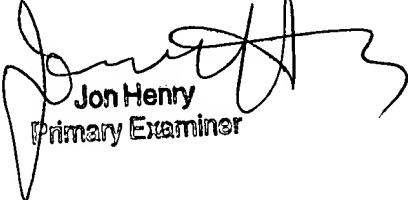
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon W. Henry whose telephone number is (703) 305-6106. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Art Unit: 2872

Cassandra Spyrou, can be reached on (703) 308-1687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0530.



Jon Henry  
Primary Examiner

jwh  
August 22, 2001